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CAMELFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S ANNUAL REPORT

1951.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Rural District
of Camelford.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health on the health and sanitary circumstances of the rural district for the year 1951.

The health of the people in the district as far as can be judged by vital statistics has remained satisfactory. It is important that too much weight should not be attached to small variations in these rates from one year to another, particularly where relatively small populations are involved - attention should rather be paid to the trend of these rates over a period of years.

Details of sanitary circumstances are given in the report, Section "C" but in this connection I should like to stress the great urgency of certain sewerage schemes which have been approved by the Ministry, but the Council are at present awaiting a starting date. These schemes are urgently needed both because of risk to the public health and to allow for further housing developments in the parishes concerned.

In the field of housing the Council has continued the post-war programme and 25 Council houses were completed in 1951 bringing the post-war total to 98. It is to be hoped that the day is not far distant when the Council will be able to seriously consider planned slum clearance and rehousing and at the same time to take effective steps to secure the improvement of property which can be made fit at reasonable expense.

One always finds some difficulty when writing the Annual Reports in trying to project oneself into the past while working in the present and planning for the future. As I took up my appointment in April, 1952 I find these mental acrobatics particularly confusing on the present occasion and this 1951 report must therefore, of necessity, be mainly statistical.

I wish to thank Mr. Hansford for the assistance he has given me in the preparation of Sections C, D and E of this report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

W.H.P. M.A.B.E.

Medical Officer of Health.

Health Area Office,
Castle Green,
LAUNCESTON.

August, 1951.

SECTION A.Summary of Vital Statistics.

Area in Acres	52,444	(52,544)
Population	7,347	(7,415)
No. of separate dwellings occupied in 1951	2,537	(2,461)
Rateable value (1st April)	£44,109	(£42,744)
Product of 1d. rate (to 31st March following)	£172. 9. 0	(164. 7. 2)

Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	47 (43)	43 (43)	90 (86)
Illegitimate	3 (1)	4 (4)	7 (5)
Birth rate per 1,000 of population	-		13.20 (12.27)

Stillbirths

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	- (-)	1 {1}	1 {1}
Illegitimate	1 (-)	1 {1}	1 {1}

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1 {1}	1 {1}	1 {2}
Illegitimate	- (-)	1 {1}	1 {1}
Infant Mortality rate	-		20.61 (32.96)

Deaths of all Causes

	Male	Female	Total
	58 (51)	57 (61)	115 (112)
Death rate per 1,000 of the population	-		15.65 (15.10)
(Figures in brackets are for the year 1950)			

MORTALITY TABLE

Classified in accordance with 36 headings based on the abbreviated list of the International Statistical classifications of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

	Causes of Death	Male	Female	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	(-)	2 (-)
2.	Tuberculosis, other	2	(-)	2 (-)
3.	Syphilitic disease	-	(-)	- (-)
4.	Diphtheria	-	(-)	- (-)
5.	Whooping Cough	-	(-)	- (-)
6.	Meningocoecal infections	-	(-)	- (-)
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	-	(1)	- (1)
8.	Measles	-	(-)	- (-)
9.	Other infective and parasite diseases	-	(-)	- (-)
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	2	(1)	3 (1)
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung bronchus	1	(-)	1 (-)
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	(4)	- (4)
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	(1)	- (1)
14.	Other malignant and Lymphatic neoplasms	2	(5)	9 (11)
15.	Leukaemia, aleuka emia	-	(-)	- (-)
16.	Diabetes	1	(-)	2 (1)
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	(3)	18 (15)
18.	Coronary disease, angina	7	(5)	10 (11)
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	3	(5)	6 (5)
20.	Other heart disease	14	(14)	33 (35)
21.	Other circulatory disease	2	(1)	3 (2)
22.	Influenza	1	(2)	1 (3)
23.	Pneumonia	-	(3)	- (5)
24.	Bronchitis	7	(2)	10 (2)
25.	Other disease of respiratory system	1	(1)	2 (1)
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	(1)	1 (1)
27.	Gastritis enteritis and diarrhoea	-	(-)	- (-)
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	1	(-)	1 (-)
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	-	(1)	- (1)
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	(-)	1 (-)
31.	Congenital malformations	-	(-)	- (-)
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	(5)	9 (10)
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	-	(2)	- (2)
34.	All other accidents	-	(-)	1 (-)
35.	Suicide	-	(-)	- (-)
36.	Homicide and operations of war	-	(-)	- (-)
		58(51)	57(61)	115(112)

(Figures in brackets are for 1950)

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services.

Laboratory Facilities

As outlined in previous reports, the free use of the Public Health Laboratories are always available either at Exeter or Truro. In the main, most of the specimens from this district are dealt with at Exeter, and I should like to take the opportunity here of thanking Dr. B. Moore who is in charge of this Laboratory for the excellence of his work and the ready help he always gives.

Clinic Facilities

Infant Welfare Clinic

Monthly sessions are held in Camelford, Delabole, St. Teath and St. Breward. The number of children seen at these Clinics during the year was 694. The emphasis is mainly on the Preventive aspect of Medicine and as outlined in the previous Report, this involves a good deal of Health Education. There is no immediate measure for assessing the result of our work here, but there is no doubt that our efforts are much appreciated by the mothers and their young children.

Orthopaedic Clinic

This Clinic is held fortnightly and comes under the control of the West Cornwall Hospital Management Committee at Camelford. This is a very useful Clinic and there is a distinct advantage in having this service in Camelford as otherwise many of the cases would have to be transported either to Truro or Plymouth.

Dental Clinic

During the year there was no full-time School Dentist in the Area and there can be little doubt that this serious situation is due to the inequality of remuneration between general dental practice and the local authority service. The full results of such a lack cannot be assessed for some years and unfortunately it will again be some years before a cure can be effected.

Ambulance Service

Our main Hospital Centres are situated in Truro, Plymouth and Exeter and this necessitates a large amount of travelling. The new County Council Ambulance at Camelford is still used and manned by the voluntary members of the St. John Ambulance Division in the Camelford area.

To give the Council some indication of the work and mileage involved, the Camelford Ambulance, during 1951 conveyed 175 patients a distance of 12,749 miles.



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Hospital Car Service

Much of what has been said about the Ambulance Service applies to the Hospital Car Service. The Utilecon Ambulance which is situated in Launceston for conveying the sitting type of case has been a most valuable asset in the district. In addition to the use of this vehicle, we also use private cars to convey cases to hospital where this is appropriate.

The Launceston Utilecon Ambulance during the year 1951 conveyed 2,470 patients a distance of 66,166 miles to hospital a large number of whom were transported from the Camelford area.

In order that the Council may have some idea of the work done for the sitting type of case, the number of patients conveyed to hospital for the whole area was 5,002 patients, a distance of 150,419 miles or an average of 30 miles per patient.

Regional Hospital Board

A Maternity Home is to be provided for the use of patients in this area at Old Tree House, Trebursey, near Launceston. This Home is expected to be ready for occupation in 1952.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances

Drainage and Sewerage

The Council's main sewerage schemes at Tintagel, Bossinney, Boascastle, Delabole and St. Teath are now completed.

The Camelford sewerage scheme now requires modifications to bring it up to date. The need for proper means of sewerage disposal at Treknow and St. Breward is also of great urgency. These three schemes have received Ministry approval and the Council is now impatiently awaiting the early allocation of a starting date.

Water

Water Samples taken 1951

Number of samples taken from Council supplies	-	15
Number satisfactory	-	15
Number of private water supply samples taken	-	11
Number satisfactory	-	7
Number of unsatisfactory	-	4
Total numbers of samples taken	-	26
Number satisfactory	-	22
Number unsatisfactory	-	4

Refuse Collection

A comprehensive scheme of refuse collection has been instituted. Refuse is collected, by motor lorry, from the whole of the District with the exception of outlying farms, etc.

Ice Cream

There are three manufacturers and ten retailers registered and from whom samples are taken from time to time. All the samples taken during the year proved to be satisfactory and were classed as Grade I.

SECTION D.

Housing

During the year 1951 25 Council Houses were completed. The total number of post-war Council Houses constructed is now 98. In addition 3 private enterprise houses were built during the year with 10 more under construction.

Nuisances and Defects

The number of nuisances detected	-	52
No. of registered notices served	-	3
No. of informal notices served	-	23

The remainder were dealt with by verbal notice.

SECTION E.

Inspection of Food

In the course of the year a considerable amount of food was condemned, most of this being of the tinned variety. When one considers the amount of tinned food consumed, and the amount which has to be condemned annually, the amount is only a very small proportion.

CONDEMNATION OF UNSOUND FOOD.

Oct. 31	18 doz. $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. packets dessert mould	Out of condition
Nov. 1	2 1lb. 16oz. tins Azet picnic hams	Tins blown
	2 tins skinned sweetened milk	"
	2 16oz. tins Ideal unsweetened milk	"
	7 5 kilo tins apricot pulp	" & leaking
Dec. 5	69 packets of potato crisps	Out of condition
Dec. 20	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. granulated sugar	Contaminated with Oil
	1 12oz. tin pork luncheon meat	Tin damaged & blown
	1 lb. 14oz. tin orange juice	"
	1 29oz. tin Eastern pears	"

SECTION F.

Prevalence and Control of Infectious
and other Diseases.

For purposes of comparison, the prevalence of Infectious Diseases in the adjoining Districts are given:-

Authority

	Total	Pyrexia	Rheumatism (Children)	Dysentry	Food Poisonings	Poliomyelitis (non-Paralytic)	Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Scarlet Fever	Mumps	Whooping Cough
Camelford Rural District	2	27	6	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Launceston Borough	17	107	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Launceston Rural District	15	42	3	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bude/Stratton Urban Dist.	3	123	3	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Stratton Rural District	14	68	1	11	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	51	367	13	27	6	2	1	4	11	1	1	1	486

Tuberculosis

	Males		Females	
	Pul.	Non.Pul.	Pul.	Non.Pul.
Cases on Register at 31.12.50	17	5	7	1
Number of cases notified during the year	3	1	4	-
No. of cases restored during the year	-	-	-	-
Inward transfers	1	-	-	-
Cases removed	3	1	3	-
Cases on Register at 31.12.51	18	5	8	1

The preventive aspect of this disease is now being seriously tackled. All contacts of notified cases of Tuberculosis are tested by means of special skin tests, and if suitable, will be protected against Tuberculosis by the use of B.C.G. Vaccine. This Vaccine is a modified form of the Tuberculosis germ which is harmless in itself but when injected is capable of enabling any individual to resist the disease.

The Council must remember too that special consideration must always be given in the question of re-housing where a case of Tuberculosis occurs in a family. Inadequate housing is without doubt one of the most likely methods of spreading Tuberculosis.

Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination

For the purposes of comparison the figures of the whole area are given. During the year 1951 the number of Diphtheria Immunisations and Vaccinations in the whole area were:-

<u>Authority</u>	<u>Immunisation</u>	<u>Boosters</u>	<u>Vaccination</u>
Camelford Rural District	96	198	57 (9)
Launceston Borough	77	59	37(10)
Launceston Rural District	78	113	44 (5)
Bude/Stratton Urban District	67	149	71(28)
Stratton Rural District	75	62	47(13)

(Figures in brackets represent re-vaccinations).

No case of Diphtheria was reported in this District in 1951.

Food Poisoning

One outbreak was reported during the year, four cases being notified. The causal organism was isolated (*Staphylococcus aureus*). The food involved was tinned raspberry jam and cream - infected by human carrier. All the patients recovered.

The Medical Officer of Health submitted a full report at the time to the Ministry of Health and to the Council.

